

OFFICAL COPY

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Scituate Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2005, and was called to order at 7:05 P.M. It was held in the Building Official's Conference Room, Scituate Town Hall, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate, Rhode Island.

II. ATTENDANCE:

**Present: Christopher Modisette – Chair, Thomas Angell, Cynthia Gianfrancesco,
Ruth Strach, Paul Dolan and Jon Vernava**

Absent: Cheryl Dexter Public:

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes of the May meeting were corrected and accepted as submitted, moved by Ms. Strach, seconded by Mr. Angell. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

IV. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Financial Reports:

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There was minor discussion on this topic.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Property Committee:

Mr. Adams will be contacted regarding payment that the town should receive for Lawton Farm for 2004.

Appraisals for Scituate Highland and the Tirrell property have not been received.

2. RIDEM Trails Grant:

Mr. Modisette spoke with Mr. Iverson and Mr. Richard regarding this topic. Potential trails could be connected from Manning field to Esek Hopkins Grove. It would be 80% state funded with a 20% match from the town. It could possibly be a combination of trail types, hard top and rustic trails with a 1 ½ mile perimeter. Funds could be put in the

budget to hire a consultant to design the trails. The grant is due by June 30, 2005 and would have a life expectancy of 2 – 2 ½ years before it would need to be fulfilled. This grant may become available again in two years.

The town is waiting for information from the state regarding the 20 acres at Esek Hopkins Grove. This is the potential site for the new middle school.

3. 2005/2006 Programs:

Several potential speakers were mentioned for upcoming events. Mr. Thorsen will not be available to speak about stone walls at one of the conservation programs. There is a person that has a presentation on dragonflies that may be contacted.

Ms. Strach is working on the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Packet with the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District. The packet information will be updated before they are distributed to new homeowners.

Possible locations for walks were discussed. They include; Lawton Farm, Indian Rock and Westconnaug Meadows. The walk schedule dates are as follows

VII. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL

1. RIACC:

The Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions has reorganized and is attempting to reestablish relationships with local conservation commissions.

2. RIDEM Trails Grant Program:

This program was developed to help promote the enhancement of trail systems. It provides 80% of funding with a 20% match from the town (maximum amount of \$50,000.00); the application deadline is at the end of June.

The land at Esek Hopkins Grove is owned by DEM but the town has a twenty year lease which will expire in the year 2021. The town could possibly apply for a grant on this site. (This is the same parcel as the middle school proposal.) These trails could possibly connect across to the trails on the west side of Battey Meetinghouse Road and up to the high school. Mr. Modisette and Mr. Angell will investigate this possibility.

3. 2005/2006 PROGRAMS:

Ms. Strach is investigating the Neighbor-to-Neighbor packet.

The commission's website should be up and running is several

weeks.

A conservation brochure is in the process of being prepared by Ms. Dexter and Ms. Strach.

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will probably not be held in Scituate this year according to an EcoDepot spokesperson. Mr. Modisette will contact Mr. Iverson to plan a collection day for the future.

The commission has been asked to assume the responsibilities of Clean and Green Day. Margeaux Morriseau will be invited to attend a meeting to help begin the planning process on this item. Conservation volunteers will also be invited to help.

Mr. Modisette has contacted Mr. Thorsen to inquire about a speech or outing regarding stonewalls. This could be done in conjunction with the Preservation Society possibly to be held in the fall of 2005. Planned walks would include Indian Rock, Lawton Farm, the Brightman Property and Hope Associates Property.

The conservation Annual Meeting has been scheduled for March 15, 2006.

4. LAND ACQUISITION:

Mr. Modisette will meet with the Finance Committee regarding funding for potential parcels.

The appraisal for the Tirrell property is being reviewed; it has come in at \$1.2 million for 115 acres. The Knight Farm appraisal is \$2.2 million and Scituate Highlands is \$1.2 million.

The Scituate Highlands property has wetland violations given by the Department of Environmental Management. These would need to be corrected before the town would consider acquiring this property.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE:

This topic was briefly discussed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Angell moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. seconded by Mr. Vernava. All were in favor. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

WITNESS:

Patricia M. Sperry

Secretary